

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

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EO 12958: N/A My accession: 17 JUN 24 Initials: RR

Title: BIOGRAPHY OF GEN. MUIR S. FAIRCHILD

Date(s): 1942-50

Call: 239,293 (FAIRCHILD) Volume: N/A

IRIS: 481808

☐ ALL

☒ Selected Papers

☒ Except

☒ copyrighted news stories; congressional bios; tabbed & oversized pages

HANDWRITTEN NOTES w/ TOO MANY STAPLES

PHOTOS WITH TOO MANY STAPLES

NOTE: HE SKIPPED O-9

GENERAL MUIR STEPHEN FAIRCHILD

BORN: 2 September 1894 at Bellingham, Washington

DIED: 17 March 1950, in Washington, D. C. of a heart attack. ¹

Commissions

Sergeant first class, Company A, Signal Corps, Washington National Guard 19 June 1916 - 5 October 1916

Flying Cadet, Aviation Section Signal Corps, 6 June 1917-5 February 1918

Second lieutenant Aviation Section Signal Officers Reserve Corps, 11 January 1918

First lieutenant (temporary) 8 March 1918
(Honorably discharged 31 October 1919)

First lieutenant, Air Service, Regular Army, 1 July 1920

Promotions

Captain	15 January 1931
Major (temporary)	16 June 1936
Major (permanent)	12 June 1939
Lt Colonel (temporary)	16 Nov 1940
Brig Gen (temporary)	4 Aug 1941
Lt Col (permanent)	15 Oct 1941
Col	5 Jan 1942
Maj Gen (AUS)	3 Aug 1942
Brig Gen (permanent)	18 Jul 1946
Maj Gen (permanent)	19 Feb 1948
General (temporary)	27 May 1948

Major Campaigns

On patrol duty during Mexican Border crisis
Served in France and Italy during World War II
In the U. S. Army Air Forces throughout World War II

Awards

Distinguished Flying Cross (For Pan-American Good-will
Tour, 21 Dec 1926-2 May 1927)

¹ Actually at Fort Myer, Virginia, where General Fairchild then resided.

Awards (continued)

Legion of Merit
(Awarded Dec 1942)

(For service to the Government
13 Jul 1940-27 Nov 1942)

Distinguished Service Medal
(Awarded Jan 1946)

(For service as a member of the
Joint Strategic Survey Committee
Dec 1942-Dec 1945)

Purple Heart

(For wounds received in action
15 Oct 1918)

Foreign Decorations

French Croix de Guerre

Major Achievements

Gen Muir Stephen Fairchild began his Federal Service in 1916, with patrol duty under the Washington National Guard during the Mexican Border incident. His first Army assignment was to the aviation ground school at Berkeley, California. Following graduation, he was ordered to Europe to attend flying school in France and Italy -- a tour of duty through which he gained considerable experience in piloting various types of large bombers and in flying at night, with units of the French Air Force. From 11 January to 8 March 1918, he took part in operations conducted from Foggia, Italy, and from then until the Fall of 1918 he served with the 11th Aero Squadron on detached duty with the French Army in different sectors of France.²

Upon return to the United States in December 1918, he served in several capacities in the course of the next few years -- as flying instructor at Ellington Field, Texas (until 31 October 1919); as commander of the 11th Aero Squadron at Kelly Field, Texas, Ohio (1921-1922). He then entered the Air Service Engineer School there and, after graduation in 1923 from the Maintenance Engineer Course, became Chief of the Engines and Planes Maintenance Branch at McCook Field. In June 1925, he was transferred to Mitchel Field, New York, as an engineer officer and afterward to Langley Field, Virginia, where he was assigned to the office of Post Engineer in May 1927.

Meanwhile, between 21 December 1926 and 2 May 1927, he participated in a Pan-American, good-will flight around South America, at the conclusion of which he, along with others of the mission, was given the Distinguished Flying Cross-- the first award of this newly authorized decoration. Following this flight

²

Included was service in the Champagne Sector during the battle of Chatena-Thierry, in the Meuse Sector during the St. Mihiel offensive, and in the Argonne during the drive in that area. (This information cannot be verified here.)

Major Achievements (continued)

he resumed his duties at Langley Field, where he remained until 25 June 1928. He then attended the Air Corps Engineer School at Wright Field, Ohio, and, after graduation in June 1929, he became the Air Corps representative at the Douglas Aircraft Company, Santa Monica, California.

With enrollment in the Air Corps Tactical School in August 1934, General Fairchild, then a captain, entered upon a period of professional training that was to last for several years. Upon completion of his work at Maxwell Field, Alabama, in June 1935, he then was appointed to the Army Industrial College, Washington, D. C., graduating from there in June 1936, and from the Army War College in Washington in June of the following year.

Assigned then to the Air Corps Tactical School as instructor he returned to Maxwell Field in the summer of 1937, and two years later (1 July 1939) was made Director of the Department of Air Tactics and Strategy in that school. Remaining here for another year he became, on 13 July 1940, Assistant Executive in the Plans Division, Office of the Chief of the Air Corps.

In June 1941, when the Air Force Combat Command (formerly the GHQ Air Force) and the Office of the Chief of the Air Corps were combined to form the Army Air Forces, he (then a lt colonel) was appointed secretary to the newly created Air Staff. On 4 August of that year, he was promoted to Brigadier General, and, a few days later, was named Executive Assistant to the Chief of the Air Corps.³ In March 1942, he became Director of Military Requirements at Headquarters Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C., and, in November 1942, he was transferred to the Office of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, as a member of the Joint Strategic Survey Committee. Serving in this capacity throughout the remainder of World War II he was appointed commandant of the Army Air Forces School at Maxwell Field in January 1946, and upon redesignation of the school as The Air University two months later (12 March 1946) he became its first commanding general. After serving there for more than two years, he was appointed Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and promoted to the temporary rank of General, on 27 May 1948. It was in this capacity he was serving at the time of his death.

General Fairchild held the ratings of Command Pilot, Combat Observer and Aircraft Observer.

³This office, continued after formation of the Army Air Forces, disappears in the reorganization of 9 March 1942. During the time that General Fairchild served as Executive Assistant, the office was headed first by Maj. Gen. C.H. Brett, then by Maj. Gen. W. R. Weaver.

MUIR STEPHEN FAIRCHILD
(O-10555)

Muir S. Fairchild was born in Bellingham, Washington, on Sept. 2, 1894. He was in Federal Service as a sergeant in the Washington National Guard between June 19, 1916, and Oct. 5, 1916. He became a flying cadet in the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps on June 6, 1917, and was appointed a second lieutenant in the Aviation Section, Signal Reserve on Jan. 11, 1918. He was promoted to first lieutenant on Mar. 8, 1918, and served until his honorable discharge on Oct. 31, 1919. He was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Air Service of the Regular Army on July 1, 1920.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to captain on Jan. 15, 1931; to major (temporary) on June 16, 1936; to major (permanent) on June 12, 1939; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on Nov. 16, 1940; to brig. gen. (temporary) on Aug. 4, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) on Oct. 15, 1941; to major general (temporary) on Aug. 3, 1942. On July 9, 1946 he was promoted to Brigadier General (Permanent).

Maj. Gen. perm 7 Dec 42

SERVICE

With the Washington National Guard, he served on Border Patrol duty in 1916. His first assignment in the Army was at the ground school at Berkeley, Cal., and following graduation, he was ordered to Europe to attend various flying schools in France and Italy. He attained extensive experience in flying several types of large bombers, piloting night bombers over the Rhine with the French forces. His headquarters was at Foggia, Italy, between Jan. 11, 1918, and Mar. 8, 1918, and in various sectors in France, on detached service with the French Army, between Mar. 8, 1918, and Oct. 31, 1918.

He returned to the United States on Dec. 1918 for duty at Ellington Fld, Texas, as a flying instructor. In Sept. 1920 he was assigned to command the 11th Aero Squadron at Kelly Fld, Texas.

He became a Test Pilot at McCook Fld, Ohio, on Feb. 10, 1921. He enrolled in the Air Service Engineer School there and was graduated in 1923 from the Maintenance Engineer Course, then becoming Chief of the Engines and Planes Maintenance Branch at McCook Fld. In June 1925 he went to Mitchel Fld, New York, and Langley Fld, Va., as an Engineer Officer. He became Post Engineer Officer at Langley Fld in May 1927.

Meanwhile between Dec. 21, 1926 and May 2, 1927, he participated in the Pan-American Good Will Flight, and on completion of this mission was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. This decoration of the ten officers of this flight was the first award of the newly-authorized Distinguished Flying Cross.

Following this flight, he resumed his duties at Langley Field, where he remained until June 25, 1928. He then enrolled in the Air Corps Engineer School, Wright Fld, Ohio, and following graduation in June, 1929, became the Air Corps Representative at the Douglas Aircraft Company, Santa Monica, Cal.

He enrolled in the Air Corps Tactical School, Maxwell Fld, Ala., in Aug. 1934 and was graduated in the following June. He then enrolled in the Army Industrial College, Washington, D.C., from which he was graduated in June 1936. One year later he was graduated from the Army War College, Washington, D.C.,

and assigned as instructor at the Air Corps Tactical School, Maxwell Field in the Air Force Section.

He was appointed Director of the Department of Air Tactics and Strategy in that School on July 1, 1939. He returned to the Office, Chief of Air Corps, on July 13, 1940, as Asst. Executive in the Plans Division. In June, 1941, when the Army Air Forces was created, he became the first Secretary of the newly formed Air Staff. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and named Assistant Chief of Air Corps on Aug. 4, 1941.

In March 1942 he was named Director of Military Requirements at Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C. In November 1942 he was assigned to the Office of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, as a member of the Joint Strategic Survey Committee and in January 1946 was made Commandant, Army Air Forces School, 41st Army Air Forces Base Unit, Maxwell Field, Ala.

He is rated as a Command Pilot and Combat Observer.

28 Sept 47

The President and Faculty
of Georgetown College to All
Unto Whom These Present Letters May Come
Greetings in the Lord

Forty years have elapsed since the military leaders of our country, divining the significance of the recently invented airplane, established the first tiny unit of American military aviation. From this small beginning of three men with no machines, the United States Air Force has grown in numbers, equipment and strategic importance until today it occupies a position of supreme moment in our military system. And if its growth has been remarkable, its traditions in war and peace have been correspondingly glorious.

Today our University honors a member of the Air Force who has made a great contribution to our country and to his profession. Already a soldier, he joined the Air Force at the time of the first World War and fulfilled many hazardous missions in combat. During the years of peace he industriously perfected his military knowledge and proficiency both in flight, in aerial exploration and in the great Army schools, so that when America entered the second World War, he was admirably fitted for the high staff assignments that he so meritoriously filled. When victory was won, he was entrusted with the organization and administration of the Air University, a mission of the highest moment, for the knowledge and wisdom of the Air Force's leaders are as important as the bravery of

its men and the perfection of its weapons and equipment.

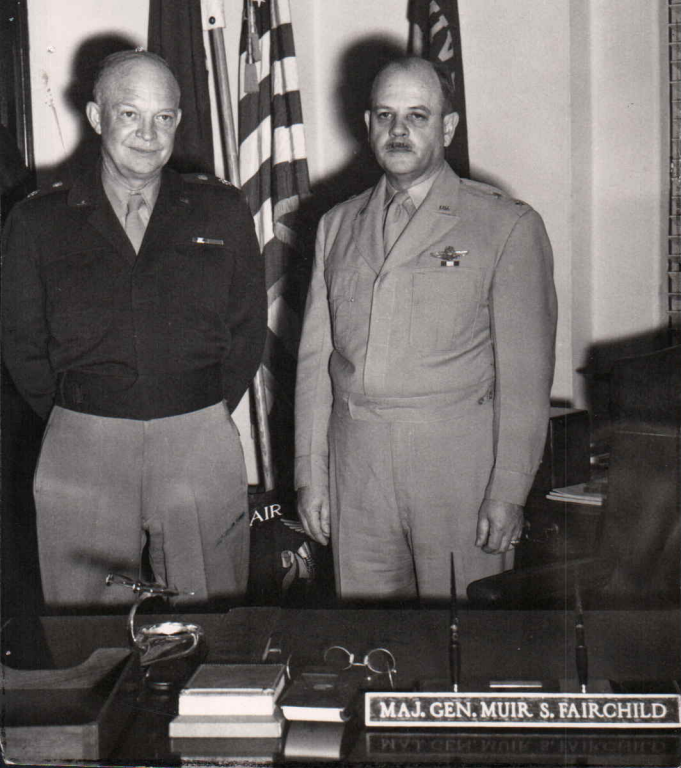
Now, therefore, Georgetown University, proud of its patriotic traditions since the infant days of our Republic, proud of its opportunity to participate in the training of future Air Force leaders, and desirous of honoring a commander of great renown, by the authority vested in us by the Congress of the United States, creates and proclaims

MUIR STEPHEN FAIRCHILD
Doctor of Military Science

Done and sealed with the great seal of this University at Washington on the 28th day of September in the year of Our Lord 1947.

CHARLES L. COOLAHAN, S.J.
Secretary

LAWRENCE C. GORMAN, S.J.
President



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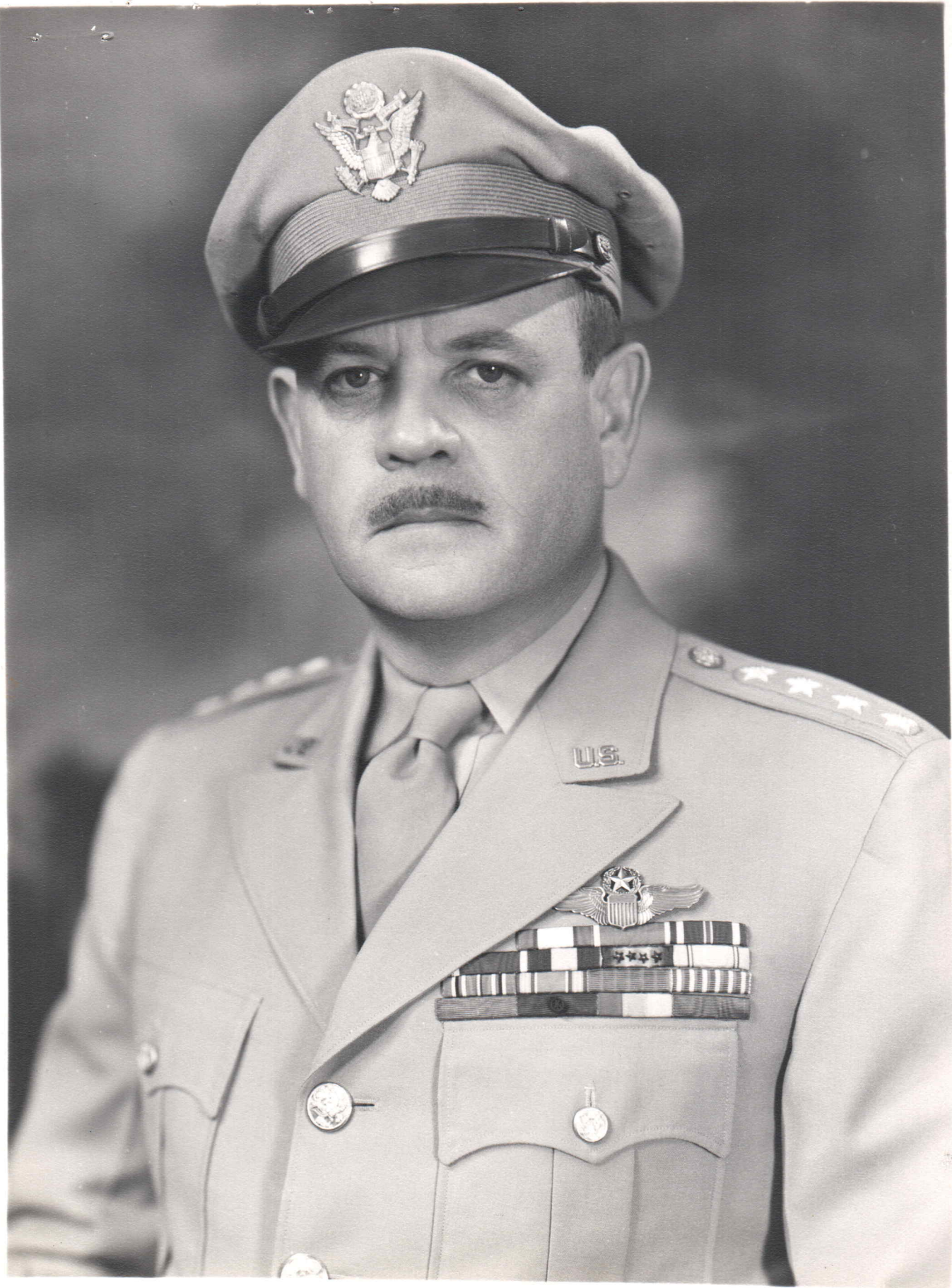
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH
U S ARMY AIR FORCES

239.293

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